



BOX PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING **HELD BY ON 25th JANUARY 2024**

- 1. Present:** Councillors: T. Walton (Chair); R. Bean; R. Bolton; R. Davies;
D. Dorey; N. Ingledew; I. Johnston; H. Parker; S. Roche
M. Tye; B. Walton;
Unitary Councillors: B. Mathew

Mrs Carey (Clerk)

- 2. Apologies:** Cllrs A. Barton ; J. Clifford ; S. Parker; D. Wright; Cllr D. Walters
The apologies were accepted

- 3. Absent:** Nil

- 3. Public Question Time:** There were six members of the public present.

Mr Donald Gordon read a statement about the condition of the red telephone box on Henley Lane that had been damaged in an accident in 2022 and asking for the Council to pursue the matter. The Clerk will circulate a copy of his report to all Councillors and the matter will be discussed again at the next Finance & Governance meeting.

Mr Clifford Jones, a resident of Hazelbury Hill spoke regarding the decision taken at the Highways Committee meeting which he felt had not followed the Council's procedures and asked for this to go back to Committee for further discussions as the Highways Improvement Request form had not been on the Agenda and some people were unaware that this was being discussed. He outlined his concerns on the highly emotive issues raised.

Ms. Anne Rudd reiterated the concerns of Mr Jones. She stated that she felt this issue was becoming very personal. She stated that she had been living on Hazelbury Hill for over 40 years and still loved living in her house. She felt that people should think about everyone and try to put the heart back into the community.

Mr Derek Elliot stated that he had attended the recent Corsham Area Board meeting and spoken to the Police representative. He had mentioned the issue of speeding and had suggested that a police car should park at the top of Box Hill which could have an effect to help reduce the speed of cars. He reported that the Police representative had made a note of this.

Mr Palmer stated he had concerns about notices that had been put in the Cemetery re the Rules and Regulations. He was informed that this issue would be discussed further at the Cemetery Management meeting.

- 4. Chairman's announcements and declarations of interest:** The Chair reminded Councillors that the Annual Parish Meeting was due to be held on 9th May at Rudloe.

5. Minutes: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18th December 2023 were agreed and signed as being a true record.

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

Climate Strategy Working Group: Cllr H. Parker reported that the baseline Carbon Audit for 2021-22 had been completed. Bloom are currently upgrading their system. The baseline audit for 2022-23 will be carried out so that the figures can be compared.

A meeting will be held next week to discuss the Great Big Green Week

7. Committees:

i. **Cemetery Management:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th January 2024 were submitted and agreed.

It was stated that the Rules and Regulations for the Cemetery would be discussed further at the Committee meeting prior to being circulated to Full Council.

A Working Party will be held in the Cemetery on 25th February

ii. **Planning & Conservation Committee:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th January 2024 were submitted and agreed.

iii. **Buildings Management Committee:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th January 2024 were submitted and agreed.

iv. **Highways Committee:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd January 2024 were submitted and agreed

Parking on Hazelbury Hill:

After further discussion it was agreed unanimously to defer the recommendation to submit the Issue Sheet submitted by Mr Smith to Wiltshire Council. This issue will be discussed further at the next Committee meeting.

Pavement opposite the garage on A4 Ashley:

It was **resolved** unanimously to submit an Issue Sheet raising the issue of the flooding on the A4 and the safety of pedestrian having to walk in the road to get past parked cars

Extension of double yellow lines at junction of Chapel Lane and Devizes Road:

It was **resolved** by ten votes in favour and one abstention that an Issue Sheet be submitted to Wiltshire Council requesting that consideration be given to extending the double yellow lines on the right hand side of the junction at the top of Chapel Lane.

SID:

It was **resolved** unanimously that two solar panel units and mounting kit are purchased from ElanCity at a sum of £848.46 + vat

Maintenance of FP34 Stairway to Heaven:

It was **resolved** unanimously that £200 be set aside for the purchase of materials including half round rails, fence posts, step posts nails etc

Tree remover:

It was **resolved** unanimously that not to exceed £100 be set aside for the purchase of a tree remover for very small trees

8. Urgent Correspondence:

- i. The letter from Gigaclear requesting access over Box Hill Common to connect broadband services to three properties was discussed. The suggested route of the trench line as shown on the map submitted by Gigaclear would dig up the newly planted fruit trees. An alternative route was suggested and agreed – making use of the footpath. It was also agreed that a site meeting be arranged with Gigaclear to look at this further and to ascertain whether a green box would be installed. **Action: MC**
- ii. Letter received re Wiltshire Council's proposed funding cuts to VisitWiltshire. After discussion with Cllr Mathew it was agreed to write to Richard Clewer expressing concerns about the proposed withdrawal of funding by Wiltshire Council which would mean that central funding would be lost as well. It was agreed to point out the negative impact on tourism and that Box is renown as the birthplace of Thomas the Tank Engine. The Parish Council could attend the Wiltshire Council meeting to make representations. **Action: MC**
- iii. Warm Spaces Grant Application - As there are no funds available for this financial year and was agreed to defer this until 2024/25

9. Items for discussion:

- i. **Business case for the purchase of a new utility vehicle:** The Business Case, drawn up by Cllr Ingledew, had been circulated to all Councillors. A quotation had been received from Off-Road Electrics in the total sum of **£31215 +vat**
A demonstration of the machine had been carried out yesterday. It was stated that this machine will cost less per year than the current vehicle.

It was **resolved** unanimously that that the HiSun Sector Lithium-Ion 15kw wide-body be purchased in the sum of **£31215 + vat**

It was agreed to review the security for the storage of the vehicle and clerk to ascertain the specification for the security from the Insurance Company. **Action: MC**
- ii. **Appointment of Assistant Clerk to the Parish Council:**
Following the receipt of three applications, one candidate had been brought forward for interview on the 17th January.

Following an excellent interview it was unanimously agreed to offer the position to Helen Barbrook.

10. Accounts for payment: The following accounts were agreed for payment

<u>BACS</u>			
Wessex Water	-	PFs and Pavilion	£17.72
<u>Debit Card</u>			
DVLA	-	Road Tax for Mule	110.00

11. Statement of balances

Lloyds

Current Account	£ 8585.51
High Interest account	<u>56030.95</u>
	£ 74616.46
Less payments to go out	<u>618.63</u>
Working balance	£ <u>73997.83</u>
Held on deposit in Lloyds	£ 45000.00
Balance in Lloyds	£ <u>118997.83</u>

Held in BIBS	£ 82203.81
Held in Nationwide	<u>£ 56654.16</u>
	£ <u>138857.97</u>

12. Chairman's Diary, Representatives' reports and report from County

Councillors:

Cllr Mathew felt that there should be a joint working party with Bathford PC to discuss the idea of a shared pavement from Box to Bathford. Cllr Mathew would like to be involved with this. There could possibly be funding from both Local Authorities. The Clerk will write to Bathford Parish Council and the local Councillor, Kevin Guy.

Cllr Mathew reported that he had written to Chris Clark regarding the issue of resurfacing of Church Lane and asked if this could be included in the work when the A4 was being resurfaced or when the pedestrian crossing was being upgraded.

Cllr Dorey reported on a meeting regarding the Rudloe Community Centre. The Trustees had received a letter from the Wiltshire Council stating that they were prepared to give a lease for three years and to agree to one hour's religious service per week but were not prepared to cover the cost of any of the renovations.

The Trustees will have to carry out due diligence re the electrics, gas, water etc.

Wiltshire Council had also stated that they wish to keep land in their land bank for Social Housing which might impinge on the Green Space and Play area.

13. Items of report and future Agenda items:

- It was reported that the Community Pay Back team had been working on the Recreation Ground today.
- A working party had been held to clear the gully at the top of Hazelbury Hill
- It was reported that the potholes on the road between the Upper and Middle Common are very bad
- It was reported that there is a mobile home blocking the pavement at the Rising Sun site. This must be reported to the police whilst the vehicle is in situ.

Meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Chair